



May 18, 2021

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Honorable Board of Supervisors
Marin County Civic Center
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RE: Presentation from Marin Water Agencies Regarding Drought Conditions, and Consideration of Declaration of Emergency

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION: Accept report and consider adopting resolution declaring a local emergency and imminent threat of disaster due to drought conditions.

Background

Much of California is in a second consecutive year of extremely dry conditions due to historically low rainfall totals, causing drought conditions resulting in degraded water quality; fallowing of productive farmland; setbacks to vulnerable and rural communities through job losses and longer-lasting recoveries; significant impacts to commercial and recreational salmon fisheries; constraints on access to traditional lifeways; loss of aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity; and ecosystem impacts.

Marin's two largest water suppliers, the Marin Municipal Water District and the North Marin Water District, have declared water shortage emergencies within their respective service areas and enacted mandatory water conservation measures. Representatives from each agency will be updating your Board on their efforts.

On April 21, 2021, Governor Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency in Sonoma County and Mendocino County due to extreme drought conditions, and on May 10 significantly expanded this drought emergency proclamation to add 39 additional counties where accelerated action is needed to protect public health, safety and the environment.

On behalf of President Rodoni, we recommend that your Board consider adopting the attached resolution declaring a local emergency and imminent threat of disaster due to drought conditions. In Marin, the situation for ranchers, especially dairies, is grim and deteriorating, with several dairies importing water by truck for many months to keep their animals alive. With far less grass on the ground, many ranchers have also resorted to importing feed from other states at extremely high cost.

Staff will plan further updates in June on County departmental conservation efforts. Today's item is focused on water supply issues and consideration of the attached resolution.

Equity Impact

Water is essential to prosperity and progress; however water challenges can disproportionately affect some of our most vulnerable residents. A policy goal of the County will be to conserve outdoor water use to foster and ensure opportunity for all people and communities.

Fiscal Impact

None as a result of accepting the report. Declaring a local emergency will provide increased opportunity for potential state and federal aid as drought conditions are expected to deteriorate in coming months, and will provide additional authorities to manage the deteriorating conditions.

Submitted by:



Daniel Eilerman
Assistant County Administrator

Reviewed by:



Matthew Hymel
County Administrator

Attachments: Resolution declaring a local emergency